

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

1. The title of the invention has been amended to more clearly indicate the invention to which the claims are directed. The title now reads, "Method and related apparatus for driving pixels located in a row of an LCD panel toward the same average voltage value,"
5 which the applicant regards as the invention stated in the claims. Acceptance of the amended title is respectfully requested.

2. Claims 1-7 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant Admitted Art (APA) in view of Kajihara et al (US Patent 6,677,923).

10

Response:

The applicant has amended claim 1 to overcome this rejection. The applicant would like to point out how claims 1 and 20 are patentably distinguished from both the APA and Kajihara.

15

As shown in Fig.3 of the instant application, a plurality of driving units are shown, each driving unit comprising an output buffer 60 (referred to in the specification as an operational amplifier 62) and a switch 64. As Fig.3 illustrates, a first end of the switch 64 is selectively connected to either an output terminal E2 of the output buffer 60 or an input
20 terminal E3 of the output buffer 60. A second end of the switch 64 is connected to an output terminal E1 of the driving unit. Therefore, the switch can electrically connect the output terminal E1 of the driving unit to either the output terminal E2 of the output buffer 60 or the input terminal E3 of the output buffer 60.

25

On the other hand, Kajihara teaches in Fig.3 and col.16, lines 5-20 that a switch 41 is

connected between an input of buffer 12 and the output of buffer 12. When the switch 41 conducts, the input of the buffer 12 is connected to the output of the buffer 12. When the switch 41 does not conduct, no current flows through the buffer 12. Kajihara does not teach that a first end of the switch 41 is selectively connected to either the output terminal of the buffer 12 or the input terminal of the buffer 12 while a second end of the switch 41 is connected to an output terminal of the driving unit.

To patentably distinguish the method of claim 1 from the APA and Kajihara, claim 1 has been amended to state that the method includes “disconnecting the first end of the switch from the input terminal of the output buffer and connecting the first end of the switch to the output terminal of the output buffer for driving an output voltage of the driving unit toward a voltage transmitted via the power transmission line of the power supply” and “disconnecting the first end of the switch from the output terminal of the output buffer and connecting the first end of the switch to the input terminal of the output buffer for driving the output voltage of the driving unit toward an average voltage generated from averaging voltages at output terminals of the driving units that are connected to the same power transmission line”. The APA does not teach a switch, and Kajihara does not teach disconnecting the first end of the switch from the input terminal of the output buffer and connecting the first end of the switch to the output terminal of the output buffer, and does not teach disconnecting the first end of the switch from the output terminal of the output buffer and connecting the first end of the switch to the input terminal of the output buffer. Therefore, the currently amended claim 1 of the instant application is patentable over the APA in view of Kajihara. Claims 2-7 are dependent on claim 1, and should be allowed if claim 1 is allowed.

In claim 20, a driving device is claimed which contains a plurality of driving units, each driving unit containing an output buffer and a switch. As stated in claim 1, claim 20 states that a first end of the switch is selectively connected to either an output terminal of

the output buffer or an input terminal of the output buffer, and a second end of the switch is connected to an output terminal of the driving unit.

5 Kajihara only teaches that the switch 41 is connected between an input of buffer 12 and the output of buffer 12. A first end of the switch 41 is connected to the input of the buffer 12 and a second end of the switch is connected to the output of the buffer 12. The switch 41 can open and close to connect the two ends of the switch. Kajihara does not teach that the first end of the switch can selectively connect to either an output or an input of a buffer. Therefore, claim 20 of the instant application is patentable over the APA in view of Kajihara.

10

3. Introduction to new claims 26 and 27:

New claims 26 and 27 are written to claim the embodiment of the driving device shown in Fig.5 and described in paragraph [0023] of the specification. That is, a first switch S2 is connected between the outputs of first and third driving units, and a second switch S2 is connected between the outputs of second and fourth driving units. Claim 27 describes the data that is provided for operating the first switch. Support for claim 27 is also found in paragraph [0023] of the specification.

20 Neither the APA nor Kajihara teach the arrangement of a first switch connected between the outputs of first and third driving units, and a second switch connected between the outputs of second and fourth driving units, as is claimed in new claim 26. Therefore, claims 26 and 27 are patentable over the APA and Kajihara, either alone or in combination. Consideration of new claims 26 and 27 is requested.

25 Applicant respectfully requests that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case.

Respectfully submitted,

5 Winston Hsu

Date: October 12, 2004

Winston Hsu, Patent Agent No. 41,526

P.O. BOX 506

Merrifield, VA 22116

U.S.A.

10 Facsimile: 806-498-6673

e-mail : winstonhsu@naipo.com

(Please contact me by e-mail if you need a telephone communication and I
will return your call promptly.)